

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/553,240
Amendment filed April 8, 2010
Reply to OA dated March 16, 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 14-31 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claim 9, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A process for producing a fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water-organic solvent system which comprises:

a reaction step of allowing an aqueous silver nitrate solution to react with a mixed solution of an aqueous iron(II) sulfate solution and an aqueous sodium citrate solution to form an agglomerate of fine silver particles;

a filtration step of filtering the resultant agglomerate of fine silver particles to obtain a cake of the agglomerate of fine silver particles;

a dispersion step of adding pure water to the cake to obtain a first fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water system in which dispersion the fine silver particles have been dispersed in the pure water;

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a concentration and washing step of concentrating and washing the first fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water system to obtain a second fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water system; and

a dilution and viscosity modifying step of adding an organic solvent to the second fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water system; wherein

[[in]] after the concentration and washing step, the second fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water system, when subjected to ultrafiltration, has an ultrafiltrate that has is controlled to have an electric conductivity of 200 µS/cm or less at the solvent part exclusive of the fine silver particles from said second fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water system;

in the dilution and viscosity modifying step, said organic solvent comprises dimethyl sulfoxide, and the fine silver particles in said fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water-organic solvent system are in a concentration of from 10% by weight to 70% by weight; and

said fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water-organic solvent system does not contain any polymeric dispersing agent.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process for producing a fine silver particle colloidal dispersion according to claim 9, wherein the dimethyl sulfoxide is mixed in an amount of from 2 parts by weight to 50 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the fine silver particles.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

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Claim 12 (Original): The process for producing a fine silver particle colloidal dispersion according to claim 9, wherein the fine silver particles in said fine silver particle colloidal dispersion of a water-organic system have an average particle diameter of from 1 nm to 30 nm.

Claims 13-31 (Canceled):